

protected even if it has to bid in the road at the amount of the claim against it.

Smith County Journal (Pop.): Had George Washington used such pleading language toward Great Britain regarding the use of silver as is indulged in by McKinley, he would have been impeached and said to have been unfit for the high position of President of a great and free country like America.

Kansas City Times (Dem.): It is disgusting to see Mr. McKinley still laboring to keep up the international bimetallic humbug, when everybody knows the fake has been exposed. The worst of it is that if the scheme had any possibility of success Mr. McKinley's managers would quickly make him drop it.

Lyons Eagle (Pop.): A hasty glance over it fails to show either statesmanship or patriotism. The President claims that "the best financial system the world ever saw;" the laws which his party has put upon the statute books—the gold basis, were ambiguous, full of doubt and onerous to the government—the people.

Hannis Taylor, ex-Minister to Spain: And yet this heartless, selfish message has not one word of encouragement or sympathy for this suffering people, now dying and starving by thousands at our very doors. In it they are contemptuously denominated as no better than their persecutors. Fortunately for the honor of this generous Christian nation, this message, with cool and serene cynicism, admits that it does not represent the sentiments of the American people as expressed by Congress a year ago in joint resolution, in which both houses declared a state of war did exist in Cuba, and that it should be recognized by this government. Congress is politely told to attend to its own business; that if the recognition of belligerency shall become necessary in the future the executive power will act without Congressional interference.

Correspondence.

Governor Holcomb as the Coming Man.

Editor Topeka Advocate:—I greatly admire the firm stand the Advocate has taken in defense of the People's party and its original platform of principles prior to the time it was disrupted and debauched by its connection with the old-time deceiver—the Democratic party—for it is plain to all Populists that such has been the case. It has been especially severely felt in the South and States east of the Missouri river. Since the reign of fusion began reform work has practically ceased and we have no medium middle ground upon which to invite the attention of those who would otherwise naturally found a home in our organization.

In all probability the Populists of Kansas and Nebraska and Western States where they are in the majority do not realize the damaging position this matter of fusion has placed us in, and if there is not some way devised to plant us on a firm footing free from old party domination we had as well abandon our effort to keep up our organization and leave our members free to choose between the very little difference there now exists between the two old twins or else refuse to exercise their right of suffrage at all.

Yet, Mr. Editor, after canvassing the whole situation, there seems to me there is yet a way out of the gloom, for the recent campaign ought to convince any one that we must look elsewhere than to Bryanism and the Democratic party for relief. It shows plainly that Bryan is ready to compromise even the silver portion of the money question with Tammany and Wall street politicians; that had he been permitted he would personally assist Tammany's choice for Mayor of New York instead of a great grand man like Henry George.

The time has come for us to settle on some able and efficient man, bring him to the attention of the people, and I am frank to say that my opinion is fully shared by hundreds of others when I mention the name of Governor Silas A. Holcomb, of Nebraska, as the coming man—the Moses who can lead us out of the wilderness.

It would give myself, as well as many of my fellow Populists, great pleasure if the editor of the Advocate would look up his biography and the splendid record he has made since entering public life, of which ex-Senator Peffer is perfectly familiar, and let his clean, pure manhood, his able executive ability, be placed before the people. I truly believe there is no man in public life that would command the universal respect of the whole people as much as Gov-

ernor Holcomb. The people of his State to-day recognize him as a peer above everything else for firmness of purpose, honesty, courage, unblemished character and depth of ability.

From the very time his name is mentioned from as influential a source as the Topeka Advocate the People's party and other factions of Nebraska and Kansas would turn their eyes and hopes to him. If the Advocate sees fit to share in my views I hope it will lend its assistance in placing his name and record before the people. A. MCLELLAN, Livonia, Mo.

More About "A Populist Opportunity."

Editor Advocate and News:—I am much pleased with the article written by my friend, Henry McLean, and published in your issue of December 8. I am pleased with it because it presents the outlines of plans by which the people who now live may be enabled to witness, in some measure, the materialization of some of our cherished theories. I am also glad that you offer your columns for discussion of questions of moment to the State. I trust that we may see a revival of the enthusiasm on social questions that prevailed to so marked a degree among the people a few years since, and a discussion of the principles in which a majority of the people believe, as shown by their votes in 1896, would seem to be especially appropriate now.

Wherever industries of any kind are being undertaken by the public to-day, the result is even beyond the brightest anticipations of the most enthusiastic "nationalist." Our public schools, public roads, free bridges; our postoffice, currency, police systems; our fire departments and many other like branches of human exertion are familiar examples which we would not for a minute think of surrendering to private monopolies. We look beyond our own shores, however, to see the most advanced realization of "Populist theories," and strange as it may seem to him who is so intensely "American" that he never studies the lives of other peoples, we find that the most progress has been made among people whom we had regarded as being so "conservative" that they were rolling along in the same old ruts that were made a thousand years ago. Instead, we see Glasgow with her broadened and beautified streets, healthful tenements, owned by the municipality, public baths, wash houses, parks, etc.; Germany, Austria and other European countries with government ownership and operation of railroads, with steady employment of operatives at increased wages, and at the same time cheapened transportation charges; Australia with its splendid success in the same lines; Switzerland with all this, and in addition direct legislation, and best of all, as it appears to some of us, New Zealand, where, in addition to nearly all the good things mentioned above, leases in perpetuity are given, with small loans by the government for making improvements, instead of fee simple titles to lands.

When we see all of these things we are paralyzed with surprise that "progressive America" is satisfied to plod along in the paths made by feudal lords in the dark ages. Truly the People's party—or any other party—"is but a means to an end," and the supporters of any party principle should be careful to understand that he is giving support to a movement that must of necessity leave its imprint on the history of his country.

If it were possible to take an expression from each voter who supported the party that is now in power in the State, I am sure that nine out of every ten would say amen to all that Bro. McLean has said. They would say to see to it that the boys at the reform school produced and prepared at the farm all that was possible of fruits and vegetables for the use of themselves and also in part for the other institutions. They would say have the girls at the industrial school engaged part time in some productive occupation looking toward the good of themselves and the State. In short, they would say that the contract system should go, and that if more was produced at the various institutions than was needed for consumption a part might be put upon the market and the proceeds used for the support of those who were dependent upon the prisoner, or set aside to his or her credit to be turned over at the time of honorable discharge from the institution. If these things were done no one would

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